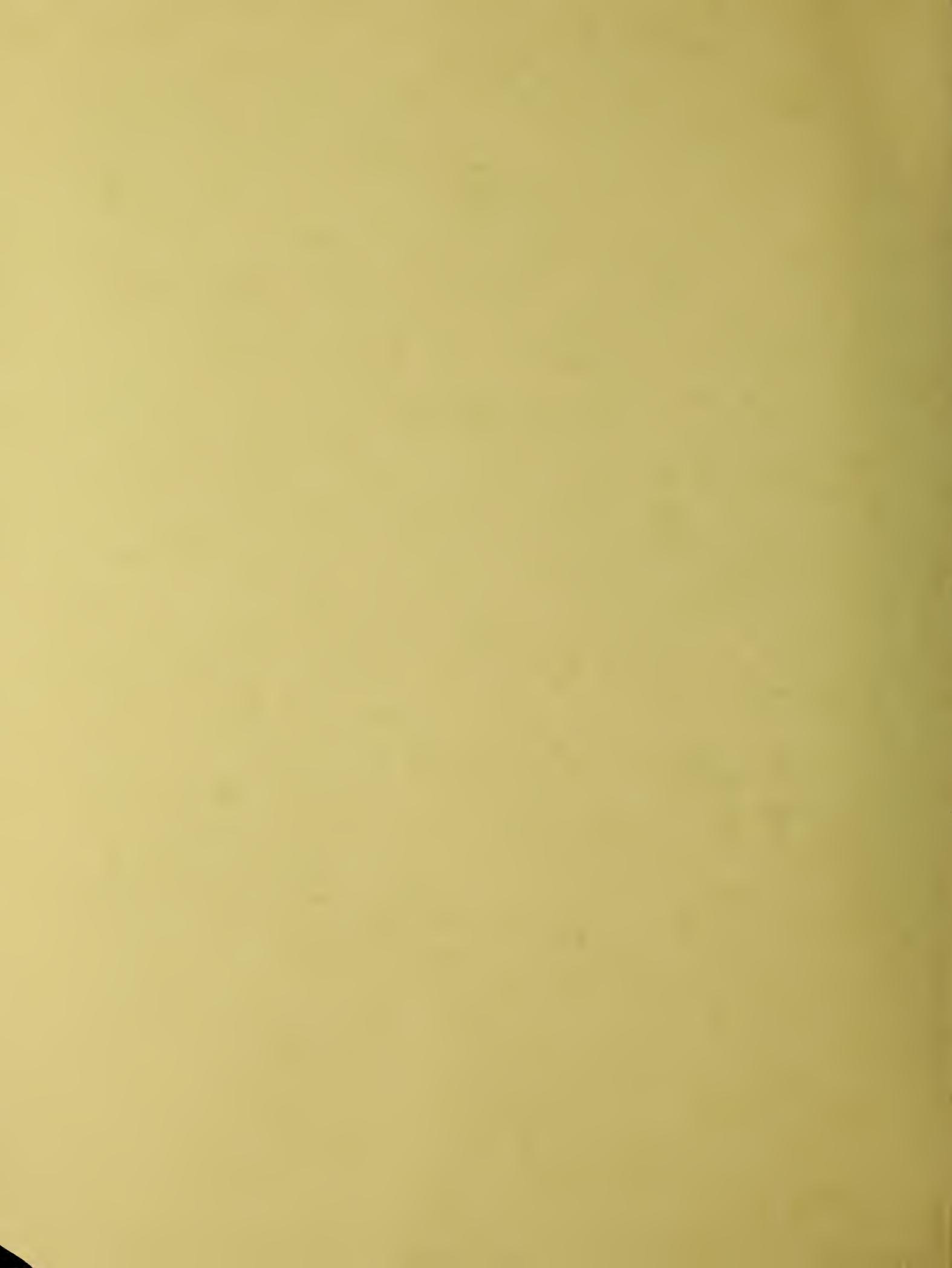


VANDALIA

DRAWER 12A

ILLINOIS TOWNS

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Illinois

Illinois Towns

Vandalia

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Vandalia, Ill.

THE VANDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS

August 24, 1931.

The Lincoln National
Life Insurance Company,
Fort Wayne, Indiana,
Mr. Louis A. Warren, (Director)

Dear Sir,

Relative to your letter of the 10th,
there is very little in the way of accurate
information to be gathered here as to
Mr. Lincoln's association with Vandalia.

During the several terms that
Mr. Lincoln served as member of the
Illinois Legislature, then meeting at
Vandalia, the old capital, his activities
seem very limited.

Outside of his work, in the selec-
tion of Springfield as the location for
the new capital, he introduced but few
bills, five in number, I believe. These
were all of minor importance, dealing
with matters of concern to his local

constituents.

In fact there is very little information concerning these formative years of his political career, which were spent here.

There is no record of any later public appearance here, save the occasion in 1856, concerning which we have no accurate record.

There is no monument or marker to Mr. Lincoln's memory here. The old State House is used as a county court house.

The only reference to Mr. Lincoln to be found is the inscription on the monument, "The Madonna of the Trail," which stands in the Court House yard. On the west side of the base are these words, - "At Vandalia Abraham Lincoln, member of the Illinois Legislature, first formulated those high principles of freedom and justice, which gave the slaves a liberator, the Union a Savior."

THE VANDALIA PUBLIC LIBRARY
VANDALIA, ILLINOIS

Trusting this answers your questions
and assuring you that we will be
glad to receive "Lincoln Lore" for our
library, I am

Very truly yours,
Mildred S. Murray
(Librarian)

Trail Of 3 Nations Seen At Historic Sites Of Illinois

In the history of our country Illinois is one of the leading scenes of action. Too often contemplation of the early American locale stops short with a consideration of the coastal activities, the Dutch and English on the Atlantic penetrating only a short way into the interior, and the Spanish colonization of the Pacific coast and the great southwest. But the discovery of the great valley of the Mississippi, the heart of the North American continent, in many ways second only to the discovery of the continent itself, should not be displaced from its proper importance.

Many Memorials Erected.

Some of the broad acres which now are our state knew the feet of the French explorers as early as 1673, and from that long distant day until the frontier pushed relentlessly on into the west, Illinois was a major ground of activity. The French were followed by the British, and finally by the fledgling libertarians of the infant United States. In the course of years, the important scenes of these stirring times might have been forgotten, but fortunately the state has preserved many of them, marking all well, erecting many memorials, and making some notable reconstructions. We in turn may mark a few here in the hope that interest in Illinois' past may increase as it deserves.

At Fort Kaskaskia state park near Chester all that is left are the highlands which mark the site of the old fort, Garrison Hill cemetery, and the Pierre Menard homestead, a fine old house built in 1802 by Illinois' first lieutenant governor. The Mississippi river has claimed the site of the town of Kaskaskia about which centered so much of the state's early history. Kaskaskia was founded in 1703 and settled by the French who followed after Joliet and Marquette, discoverers of the headwaters of the Mississippi, and LaSalle, who built Fort Crevecoeur, opposite present day Peoria, and Fort St. Louis du Rocher at Starved Rock. It was a thriving village 30 years old when the first fort was built. It remained a French settlement even after the coming of the British in 1763. In 1778 George Rogers Clark entered Illinois at Fort Massac, near what is now the city of Metropolis and where now a proud likeness of the interpid pioneer soldier looks out over the broad Ohio. Clark pushed on to Kaskaskia to raise the new American flag and claim the Illinois country for the United States. In 1809 Kaskaskia became the territorial capital and in 1818 the state capital. Circumstances robbed her of her promised growth, but her story remains a proud one in the annals of Illinois.

Charm Of Old Capitol.

At Vandalia, a century-old building of southern provincial charm reminds us that this was the capital of Illinois from 1820 to 1839. This building was the third capitol to be built at Vandalia.

In the Alton cemetery a graceful shaft surmounted by a winged figure allegorical of Liberty commemorates the martyrdom of a man close to the hearts of all who love freedom. This memorial was constructed by the state in 1897 to honor Elijah Parish Lovejoy, young Alton editor and abolitionist who died defending

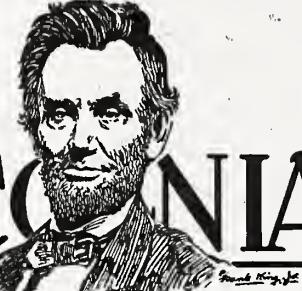
his press from an angry mob of pro-slavery men.

Clustered in the vicinity of Peoria are three preservations of diverse character, each in its way telling important stories of Illinois. The first of these is the Crevecoeur marker which honors LaSalle. From here it is only a short way to Metamora and the charming old courthouse where Lincoln and Douglas, Adlai Stevenson and Robert Ingersoll argued cases before a bench distinguished by judges such as David Davis, Norman H. Purple and Samuel Treat. And still not far away is the charming old Jubilee college, started in 1838 by Bishop Philander Chase, also founder of Kenyon college in Ohio. Old Jubilee, recently acquired by the state, is a place of restful beauty and a monument to the bravery and hopefulness of a pioneer educator.

In the northwest corner of the

posed to be a true likeness of Chief Black Hawk, stands on a bluff left by the receding glaciers like a watch tower over the broad plain in front. The figure represents not an individual—although this is part of the country over which the embittered Black Hawk brooded—but an idealization of the aborigines who once enjoyed this land as their own and left it sadly. The monument, forty-eight feet in height, is impressive not only in size but in grace.

And in Chicago at the eastern end of Thirty-fifth street near the tracks of the Illinois Central railroad, is the monument to one of Illinois' great statesmen, Stephen A. Douglas, "The Little Giant." Here Douglas was laid to rest in 1865, four years after death had cut him down as he stumped the northern part of the state pleading with the people to support Lincoln in the early and perilous days of the Civil war.



LINCOLNIANA

What Abraham Lincoln Was Doing 100 Years Ago

By FRANK FARRINGTON

VANDALIA, ILL., was a husky pioneer village of 800 population in 1836. It made much of its glory as the seat of state government and it welcomed the sessions of the legislature as giving it an importance even above that of Springfield, Chicago, and other larger communities.

The special session of the State's General Assembly called for December 7, 1835, was the second session for representative Abraham Lincoln, one of the members from Sangamon county. He had already served in the regular session that had adjourned February 13, preceding. He had begun to understand the ways of legislators and to secure a footing among his fellows. This special session, to last until February, 1836, was to give him the important start that would enable him, if re-elected, to make his presence felt.

Lincoln and his fellow legislators reporting at the state house for the re-opening of the Assembly following the New Year's holiday, found Vandalia doing its best to look like a thriving young city. It had the Vandalia Inn, boasting its thirteen bedrooms and its dining room, 44 by 20 feet, and shops where were offered for sale kid pumps, beaver hats, champagne and "Godey's Lady's Book," but the walls of the state house were bulging, the plaster was falling from its ceilings within and the governor himself was declaring it was not calculated to add either character or credit to the state. Movements were already afoot to transfer the capital to some other city.

At this special session Lincoln learned much about putting improvement and appropriation legislation through the Assembly and he gained experience and acquired prestige that was to stand him in good stead when the next regular session came around.

Among other things done with his help in this special session was a reapportionment of the state, by which means Sangamon county's representation was increased to seven repre-

sentatives and two senators. It was in a large degree due to the labors of Lincoln and his friend Stuart that this legislation went through. These two forward looking young legislators even then, it may be believed, had in mind the log-rolling that would be necessary in the next session to pass a bill transferring the capital to Springfield, and in casting their votes this winter for other legislators' pet schemes, they were making it possible to get votes the next winter for their own scheme.

It was during this session that Lincoln first met Stephen A. Douglas, to be his political opponent from now until 1860. Douglas in his twenty-second year, had come to Vandalia to further his political aspirations. He

The Old Capital Building of Illinois at Vandalia was erected in 1836. Vandalia was the capital of the state from 1819 to 1839. Lincoln was instrumental in removing the capital from Vandalia to Springfield. This old building is now the property of the State of Illinois. It is being restored and will become one of the historic and patriotic shrines of the State.



was already being called the "Little Giant," because of a speech he had made at Jacksonville, Ill., where he reanimated the dejected Democrats of his party at a meeting begun in discouragement.

Abolition was attracting Lincoln's attention, as a notable movement in 1836. He was watching it and wondering just how far it might go, while he avoided enrolling himself under its aggressively flaunted banner.

The legislature adjourned February 7, 1836 and it was hard for "Honest Abe" to leave the excitement of politics at the state capital and journey 75 miles over the lumpy roads of February, back to New Salem. As he went, he must have wondered whether the fall elections would return him to the Assembly or leave him to follow the tedious course of reading law at New Salem, so isolated that he would have to walk the 20 miles to Springfield to borrow the necessary law books. Lincoln was becoming a man of affairs. He was fonder of affairs of the state and nation than of any lighter amusement. He was so much interested in serious matters that he spared little time for trivialities. He was ambitious to get ahead and he was willing to make the necessary sacrifices to that end.

Shortly after his return to New Salem, he was sworn in as a lawyer in the Circuit Court of Sangamon, though not until September 9, 1836, was he licensed to practice law, and he was not fully admitted to the bar until March 1, 1837.

Part of the summer of 1836 he spent in surveying and one of his jobs was to lay out the town of Petersburg, about two miles from New Salem and destined to cause the latter badly situated village to fade from the picture.

Lincoln received \$3 per day for working as a surveyor and he was occupied for a considerable part of the summer in that capacity. He had to supply his own equipment. He bought his horse for \$50, giving a note on which he was very slow in making payments, so little income did he have. The Thomas Watkins who sold him the horse went so far as to sue him for the last \$10 due. Lincoln managed to raise the money to pay the claim and Watkins' son lived to apologize to the world for the act of his father in suing Abraham Lincoln! But to Watkins in 1836, Lincoln was merely a delinquent debtor.

On June 13 Lincoln announced in the "Sangamon Journal" that he would be a candidate for re-election. His brief letter committed him fully to the Whig principles. In this canvas he suffered from a whispering campaign, the full character of which does not appear, but he met it fully with a letter to one Col. Allen who had passed through New Salem, leaving intimations and innuendos of things he declared he could not tell. Lincoln's letter demanded that he state fully what things he had in mind, assuring him he was a traitor to the public welfare if he had knowledge derogatory to the character of a public servant and failed to tell it. It was in this campaign, too, that he made that famous retort to a political opponent, one Forquer, who had denounced him. "I would rather die now," Lincoln announced, following Forquer's speech, "than like the gentleman, change my politics and simultaneous with the change receive an office worth three thousand dollars a year, and then have to erect a lightning rod over my house to protect a guilty conscience from an offended God."

It was in the fall of 1836 that Lincoln began courting Mary Owen, when she came to New Salem to visit her sister, Mrs. Bennett Able. The Ables lived just outside the village and Mary formed the habit of every afternoon walking over to see some cousins at a little distance. Young Abe Lincoln soon found it agreeable to take a walk in the bright autumn sunshine, arriving at Mary's destination in time to walk home with her. His heart was intrigued a little on its rebound from the sad ending of his love affair with Ann Rutledge. He found Mary possessed of a good mind and a good education. She stimulated his intellect, but scarcely his heart and perhaps he found him-



Courtesy Illinois State Historical Library

Abraham Lincoln boarded in this house while a member of the Illinois legislature

self speculating as to her age and just how fat she would become as the years went by, for already Mary was taking on weight. She was a fine woman, but when December came and Lincoln had to return to Vandalia and immerse himself in legislative matters and in scheming with others to win the fight for moving the capital to Springfield, he had lost any sentimental interest he may have had in Mary and it may be questioned whether Mary had felt any such interest in him. At all events, winter saw the beginning of what proved the next August, 1837, to be the end of this somewhat unromantic romance, as free from emotion as the romance of Ann Rutledge had been full of it.

The seven assemblymen and 2 senators, elected from Sangamon county to the tenth General Assembly in the fall of 1836, were tall men, each more than six feet in height. And, allied closely, as they were, they were soon dubbed "The Long Nine." They worked together and their chief aim during that session was to get the capital for Springfield. As the session opened December 5, they started with a united front and with Lincoln made Whig floor leader and already admittedly so clever a parliamentarian as to be able to direct their plans adroitly. No one ever accused Lincoln of anything dishonest in the work he did in this political maneuvering. He endorsed only measures he considered sound and he never received any reward for what he did, other than in increased prestige. With this legislative session he came into his own and thenceforth his political advancement was continuous, whether he won or lost his contests for office.

The year 1936 in itself marked by no single great event for Lincoln, never-

theless saw the widening of his horizon and the real start of his political growth.

Lincoln Manuscript Found

Another manuscript, whose location has been hitherto unknown, has recently been uncovered in a bank vault in Dryden, N. Y. This is the long-lost manuscript of an address delivered by President Lincoln from a window above the portico of the White House on the evening of Thursday, November 10, 1864, when a celebration of his re-election was given by Lincoln and Johnson clubs.

The manuscript remained with the Lincoln family until April 18, 1916, when Robert T. Lincoln sent it to Representative John W. Dwight, of Dryden, in appreciation for his work in the House, providing for the erection of the Lincoln memorial in Washington.

This is Lincoln's brief description of his career as made by himself for Mr. Charles Lanman's Dictionary of Congress":

"Born, February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky.

Education defective.

Profession, a lawyer. Have been a captain of volunteers in the Black-Hawk War.

Postmaster at a very small office. Four times a member of the Illinois Legislature. And was a member of the Lower House of Congress. Yours, &c., A. LINCOLN."

Die when I may, I want it said of me by those who knew me best, that I always plucked a thistle and planted a flower where I thought a flower would grow. — ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Lincoln Notes

Compiled by KING HOSTICK

DR. JOHN WESLEY HILL, noted Lincoln student, was the guest speaker for the well-attended anniversary meeting of the Abraham Lincoln Society of Northern California, held July 27, in the Hotel Stewart in San Francisco.

Incidentally, as was stated in these columns a month or so ago, Dr. Hill refused to accept the title of Chancellor Emeritus of the Lincoln Memorial University where he was so long associated. This honorary degree was to be conferred upon him on retirement, but because of Dr. Hill's not wanting to accept it, the University had to accede to his wishes in the matter.

The Abraham Lincoln Fellowship

The writer has received a letter which has behind it no little amount of beauty and pathos written between the lines. The letter was penned by an eighty-five year young gentleman, Arthur Harris Smythe of Berkeley, Calif., and the purpose was to convey a complimentary life membership in the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship of that State on the writer. The Fellowship Club is composed only of a handful of men and women who saw, heard, met, or knew the Emancipator, and whose ages must be, naturally, not younger than 73 years. The pathetic angle, that the writer detected between the lines, was the realization of the membership that this beautiful organization could not remain intact forever, because one by

one they are passing to the Great Beyond.

The Honorary President of the Club automatically becomes the oldest member on Lincoln Day of each year. On that day also each is required to submit to the club a written, attested statement telling his or her particular story and connection with Abraham Lincoln before his admittance to the society. These records are preserved in a safety deposit box for posterity.

On the reverse side of the writer's complimentary membership is a touching story. It is the story of the club's secretary — Arthur Harris Smythe's contact with the War President. Mr. Smythe's short few lines read as follows: "My hand was grasped by the hand of Abraham Lincoln on February 13, 1861 in the Senate Chamber of Ohio's Capitol at Columbus. Lincoln was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated as President of the United States of America. The greeting he spoke to my little brother and myself that day, 75 years ago, has been an inspiration to me all through these long years."

Lincoln Biographies

Starting in October we will give a story and picture each month of some distinguished writer.

Lincoln Books at Auction

These Lincoln items were included in a last season sale of the Chicago Book and Art Auctions, Inc.

Lincoln, Abraham, a copy of the Emancipation Proclamation, September 22, 1862. With printed signatures of Abraham Lincoln and Seward. Issued January 1, 1863. Official document. \$4.

Document signed in full "Abraham Lincoln." Commission given to Wm. T. Minor, Ex-Governor of Connecticut, appointing him Consul General of Havana. Signed by Wm. H. Seward and Lincoln, Washington, February 15, 1865. \$21.

Oration of James Speed upon the Inauguration of the Bust of Abraham Lincoln, at Louisville, Ky., February 12, 1867. Address of Hon. James Speed before the Society of the Loyal Legion, at Cincinnati, May 4, 1887, in response to the toast, "Abraham Lincoln." Louisville, 1888. Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln and notes of a visit to California, by

LINCOLNIA

(See Mart for Rates)

WANTED — Items pertaining to Abraham Lincoln—A. H. Griffith, Fisk, Wis. July 12231

PHOTOS OF LINCOLN — Lincoln's funeral car; Booth his slayer. All 25c. Catalogue, 5c. Lemley Curio Store, Northbranch, Kansas. *710*

LINCOLN'S assassination and death. Original copy New York Herald, April 15, 1865. Make bid.—Box 205, Salt Lake City, Utah. *03042*

FOR SALE—Actual photograph of the tree that grew into profile of Lincoln, 25c each.—Photo Shop, Albany, Ga. n3222

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Joshua F. Speed, Louisville, 1884. Together 3 pamphlets, one volume. \$31.

Reminiscences of Abraham Lincoln and Notes of a visit to California by Joshua F. Speed, Louisville, 1884. In presentation, binding of silk cloth. Bears the following pencil note on the fly leaf. "When my uncle's reminiscences were published a certain number of them, were bound as this copy and presented by my aunt Fanny to relatives and friends. Joshua F. Speed."

Oration of James Speed upon the Inauguration of the Bust of Abraham Lincoln, at Louisville, Ky., February 12, 1867. \$11.

Address of Hon. James Speed before the Society of the Loyal Legion at Cincinnati, May 4, 1887. In response to the toast, "Abraham Lincoln", Immaculate copy. \$4.

Two cards of admission to the gallery of the United States Senate, Impeachment of the President (Andrew Johnson), March 13, and April 16, 1868. \$9.

A copy of the original photograph of Lincoln which he presented to Mrs. Lucy G. Speed with the following inscription on the margin: "For Mrs. Lucy G. Speed, from whose pious hand I accepted the present of an Oxford Bible twenty years ago. Washington, D. C., October 3, 1861. A. Lincoln." \$10.

A collection of four badges worn by different committeemen to receive President Theodore Roosevelt when he laid the cornerstone of the Lincoln Memorial at Hodgenville, Ky., February 12, 1909; together with a committeeman's card and a souvenir program. Together 6 pieces. \$20.

Photograph of an engraving by Alonzo Weeks, showing the heads of Lincoln and his cabinet. Framed, 8" x 9 1/2". \$4.50.

Abraham Lincoln: A History. By John G. Nicolay and John Hay. 10 vols. New York, 1890. Immaculate sets of the first edition. \$43.

Abraham Lincoln, Nach dem Englischen von P. A. Hanaford frei bearbeitet von Julius Wurzburger. Cleveland, 1882. Recollections of President Lincoln, by L. E. Chittenden. New York, 1891; Letters and Addresses of Abraham Lincoln, New York, 1904; Edwin M. Stanton, by Frank A. Flower. Akron, 1905; Lincoln's Own Stories, collected by Anthony Gross, New York, 1912. Together 5 vols. \$2.50.

The Life of Abraham Lincoln; from his Birth to his Inauguration. Ward H. Lamon. Illustrations, Boston, 1872. First edition. \$7.50.

THE following Lincolniana items were in the sale of the effects of the late Don C. Seitz, Brooklyn, N. Y., sold by the Rains Galleries, of New York City.

525. Lincoln, Abraham. Lincoln the Man, by Edgar Lee Masters, N. Y., 1931; Abraham Lincoln, his path to the presidency, by Albert Shaw, 2 vols., N. Y., 1929; New Letters and Papers of Lincoln, compiled by Paul M. Angle, Boston, 1930; The Real Lincoln, by Jesse W. Welk, Boston, 1922; Abraham Lincoln, Man of God, N. Y. 6 vols., v.p.v.d., \$5

526. Lincoln Club. Lincoln the Constitutional Lawyer. By John Maxey Zane. Chicago, 1932. One of 300 copies. \$7.

527. Abraham Lincoln, by Brand Whitlock, N. Y. 1930; Lincoln's New Salem, by Benjamin P. Thomas, Springfield, 1934; four speeches by Abraham Lincoln, hitherto published or unknown, Columbus, 1927; Lincoln's own Yarns and Stories edited by A. K. McClure, Chicago, n.d.; Lincoln and His Cabinet, by C. E. Macartney, N. Y. 1931; Lincoln and Liquor, William H. Townsend, N. Y. 1934; and others. Illustrations. Together 11 vols. v.p.v.d., \$7.

528. Lincoln at Gettysburg, (Barton). Indianapolis, n.d.; President Lincoln (Barton), 2 vols., Indianapolis, n.d.; The Women Lincoln Loved (Barton), Indianapolis, n.d.; In the Footsteps of the Lincolns (Tarbell), N. Y., 1934 Illustrations. 5 vols. v.p.v.d., \$3.50.

Vandalia, Ill., Proud of Its Role In Early Career of Abraham Lincoln

BY KENNETH WEAVER

(News-Sentinel State Editor)

VANDALIA, Ill. — People in this Southern Illinois community have reason to think ill of Abraham Lincoln. For Lincoln was the leader in the removal of the state capitol to Springfield from Vandalia at a time when it was the social and political center of Illinois.

But the townspeople are proud of the part their city played in the state's early history and in the life of Lincoln. They point with

pride to their authentic mementoes of that bygone era.

Take the Vandalia State House Memorial, for instance. Restored in 1933, it was the capitol from Dec. 3, 1836, to July 4, 1839. Lincoln was a member of the House during the three sessions of the legislature held in this building, and Stephen A. Douglas was a member of the 1836-37 session.

Vandalia was the capital city from 1820 to 1839. The present

structure was the third and last capitol erected here. A white brick, two-story building, it was built by the citizens of Vandalia at a cost of \$16,000.

Visitors to the State House Memorial today find it much the same as it appeared in the days when Lincoln debated here, including the cast iron, rectangular-shaped heating stove, some of Lincoln's books, the straightlined furniture of those days, the first governor's boots, the rather spacious House and Senate rooms and other items.

Son in Fort Wayne

Attendants at the Memorial, by the way, are well acquainted with Fort Wayne. They are Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Cheshier, who quite often visit Fort Wayne to see Mr. Cheshier's son, Torrence (Tony) Cheshier, who resides on the Neuhaus Road and is employed at the Salisbury Axle Co.

Standing at the corner of the State House ground is "The Madonna of the Trail," a monument to pioneer mothers. It was dedicated in 1928 as a gift to Illinois and the Nation from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The monument is one of a series erected by this patriotic organization marking the National Old Trails Road through 12 states. In the early days, Vandalia was the terminus of this highway, authorized by Thomas Jefferson in 1806 and better known as the Cumberland Road.

Local citizens relate that when Lincoln served in the legislature here, he crossed the prairies between the Sangamon and the Kaskaskia rivers on horseback or by stage. He was the recognized leader of the "Long Nine," two senators and seven representatives from Sangamon County averaging 200 pounds in weight, all six feet or more in height.

Vandalia, Ill.

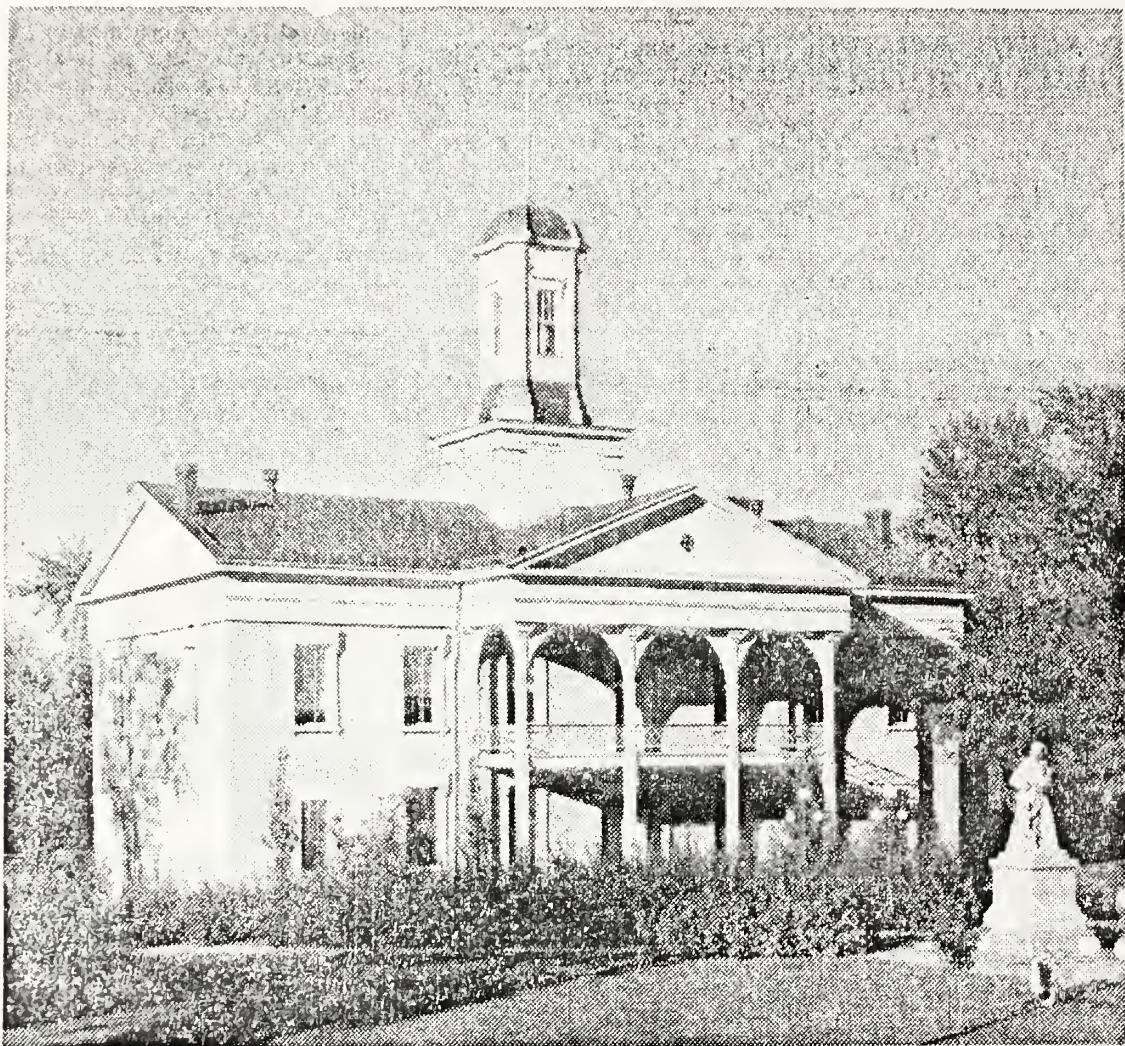
Saw Vandalia Again.

Lincoln spoke on the afternoon of Sept. 23, 1856, at a Fremont meeting held in the old state house at Vandalia, where he had served his novitiate in the legislature.

Ill. St. Journal 6/30/36

(100)

Old Illinois State House At Vandalia



This building, built at Vandalia in 1836 to serve as the state capitol, was the scene of Abraham Lincoln's second and third terms as a member of the Illinois general assembly. In 1837 the legislature selected Springfield as the seat of government and the former state house became the Fayette county courthouse in 1839. The building is now the property of the state.

Things Have Changed

STATE Rep. Carl H. Preihs (D., Pana) grew indignant about a Canadian broadcast on the life of Abraham Lincoln. He was particularly angry because Lincoln was quoted—or misquoted—as saying that the capital of Illinois was moved to Springfield from Vandalia (which is in Preihs' district) because of the "mud and mire in Vandalia."

In resenting this awful slur "by a foreign country," Mr. Preihs invites one and all to come to Vandalia and see for themselves that there is no mud and mire.

We feel sure he is right, and that there is hardly a puddle in all Vandalia. It is just possible, though, that this was not always so, and that the paving in Lincoln's old haunts has improved as much as the quality of its statesmen has deteriorated.



Lincoln Lore

Bulletin of the Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum. Mark E. Neely, Jr., Editor.

Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the
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September, 1978

Number 1687

A "Great Fraud"? Politics in Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois*

Thirty years ago, historians thought Lincoln was most a statesman when he was least a man of party. In general, this meant that Lincoln the President was a statesman, but Lincoln the Whig politician was not. In the period from the late 1940s to the early 1960s, some historians celebrated the practical, compromising politician as the ideal statesman, and for this brief period Lincoln was often pictured as a statesman because he was a skilful politician. This new view never rebounded to the benefit of Lincoln's Whig years, though David Donald argued in 1959 that President Lincoln was merely a "Whig in the White House." The new appreciation for politicians did not extend to the Whig party, which was of little interest to liberal scholars who regarded its affection for banks and tariffs with disdain.

G.S. Boritt's *Lincoln and the Economics of the American Dream* has at last rescued Lincoln's Whig years from the charge of narrow partisanship. But the reasons for the long reign of the view that Lincoln was a petty politician before the White House years have not been adequately explored.

One of the principal reasons is the heavy reliance historians have placed on Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois from Its Commencement as a State in 1818 to 1847* (Chicago: S.C. Griggs, 1854). It is an appealing book — a minor classic, in fact — written with economy, full of facts and descriptions nowhere else available, and brutally frank.

It is Ford's frankness which has had the greatest appeal. The tone of most nineteenth-century memoirs was pious and earnest rather than cynical, and nineteenth-century state histories were generally celebratory in nature. Ford's book, a state history written almost as a memoir by an active participant in much of the era he describes, is remarkable for its candor about

politics. Himself a politician (Ford was the Governor of Illinois from 1842 to 1846), he viewed the motives of most politicians with cynicism and spoke with the authoritative tone of an insider. Historians anxious for a reliable source which pierced through the customary platitudes and moralisms of nineteenth-century historical writing have devoured Ford's book.

For the early period of Lincoln's involvement with Illinois politics, Thomas Ford's *History of Illinois* is one of the most important sources. It is quoted by everyone. Even Lincoln quoted from it. In the first of his famous debates with Stephen Douglas, at Ottawa on August 21, 1858, Lincoln argued that his opponent had not always bowed to the will of the Supreme Court as readily as he bowed to its will as expressed in the Dred Scott decision.

And I remind him of another piece of history on the question of respect for judicial decisions, and it is a piece of Illinois history, belonging to a time when the large party to which Judge Douglas belonged, were displeased with a decision of the Supreme Court of Illinois, because they had decided that a Governor could not remove a Secretary of State. You will find the whole story in Ford's History of Illinois, and I know that Judge Douglas will not deny that he was then in favor of over-slaughting that decision by the mode of adding five new Judges, so as to vote down the four old ones. Not only so, but it ended in the Judge's sitting down on that very bench as one of the five new Judges to break down the four old ones.

Again, when Lincoln met Douglas at Charleston on September 18th, a heckler asked Lincoln, who was defending Lyman Trumbull's reputation, what Ford's book said about him. Lincoln re-

HISTORY OF ILLINOIS.

FROM ITS

COMMENCEMENT AS A STATE IN 1818 TO 1847.

CONTAINING A

FULL ACCOUNT OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR, THE RISE, PROGRESS,
AND FALL OF MORMONISM, THE ALTON AND LOVEJOY RIOTS,
AND OTHER IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING EVENTS.

BY THE LATE

GOV. THOMAS FORD.

CHICAGO :

PUBLISHED BY S. C. GRIGGS & CO.,
111 LAKE STREET.
NEW YORK: IVISON & PHINNEY.

1854.

From the Louis A. Warren
Lincoln Library and Museum

FIGURE 1. Title page of Ford's *History of Illinois*.

plied: "My own recollection is, that Ford speaks of Trumbull in very disrespectful terms in several portions of his book, and that he talks a great deal worse of Judge Douglas."

Ford's *History of Illinois* has played an important role in documenting Lincoln's career. It is one of the principal sources for the charge that, as a member of Sangamon County's "Long Nine," Lincoln had traded support for local internal improvements for votes to move the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield. The book barely mentions Lincoln, however, and its real importance has lain in providing a picture of the political landscape of Lincoln's early career.

A good example of the book's use appears in the first volume of J.G. Randall's *Lincoln the President*:

The politicians' world in Illinois in the day of Lincoln's earlier career has been drawn from life in the vivid pages of Governor Thomas Ford. It was not an inspiring picture. Because of the want of true "issues" and the scramble for favor, as explained by Ford, an election became "one great fraud, in which honor, faith, and truth were . . . sacrificed, and politicians were debased below the . . . popular idea of that class of men." Government might mean one thing to the people; its purpose in the minds of politicians was another matter. They had a "destiny to accomplish, not for the people, but for themselves." With the people caring little for matters of government, said Ford, the "politicians took advantage of this lethargic state of indifference . . . to advance their own projects, to get offices and special favors from the legislature, which were all they busied their heads about." Politicians, he said, operated on the principle that "the people never blame any one for misleading them"; it

was merely a matter of supporting or opposing measures because of their popularity or unpopularity at the time. A "public man," said the governor, "will scarcely ever be forgiven for being right when the people are wrong." That was why "so many" politicians were "ready to prostitute their better judgments to catch the popular breeze." Whatever may have been the basis of parties in their early origin, Ford observed that "little big men, on both sides . . . feel the most thorough hatred for each other; their malice often supplying the place of principle and patriotism. They think they are devoted to a cause, when they only hate an opponent; and the more thoroughly they hate, the more . . . are they partisans." Party newspapers, he thought, promoted and perpetuated this unhealthy state of things.

Ford's candor about political motivation and his seeming nonpartisanship ("little big men" were "on both sides") persuaded many a student of Illinois history that politics were a sordid affair. Since Lincoln's life was thoroughly and inextricably enmeshed with Illinois politics, the result was that historians found in him, perhaps in less exaggerated form, the general attributes of Illinois politicians outlined by Thomas Ford.

The bitterness of Ford's disgust for politics and politicians was extraordinary and was not misrepresented by Randall and other Lincoln biographers who saw Lincoln's early political career as narrowly partisan and crafty. Ford introduces his theme in his discussion of the first Illinois legislature early in the book. "It appears," he said, "by the journals of this first legislature that a committee was appointed to contract for stationery, who reported that they had purchased a



OUR PRESIDENTIAL MERRYMAN.

The Presidential party was engaged in a lively exchange of wit and humor. The President Elect was the merriest among the merry, "kept those around him in a continual roar."—*Daily Paper*.

From the Louis A. Warren
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FIGURE 2. *Harper's Weekly* pictured Lincoln swapping stories with drinking politicians, as a hearse carrying the Union and the Constitution passed by.



FIGURE 3. *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* pictured the crowd of office-seekers who besieged Lincoln when his administration began.

sufficient stock at the cost of \$13[.]50. For every dollar then paid, we now pay hundreds for the same articles; but this was in the days of real frugality and economy, and before any of the members had learned the gentlemanly art of laying in, from the public stock, a year or two's supply at home." Surveying the state's political history up to 1830, and "calling to mind the prominent actors in the scenes of that day, the fierce struggles and quarrels amongst them, the loves and the hatreds, the hopes, fears, successes and disappointments of men, recently, but now no more on the stage of action, one cannot but be struck with with the utter nothingness of mere contests for office." The old and corrupt methods of politics were carried into the new state. "In those days," Ford said, "the people drank vast quantities of whiskey and other liquors; and the dispensation of liquors, or 'treating,' as it was called, by candidates for office, was an indispensable element of success at elections." The personal politics, intrigue, and disregard of the public welfare practiced in gaining election "were carried . . . into the legislature. Almost everything there was done from personal motives." Ford's message was simple: "Hitherto in Illinois the race of politicians has been more numerous and more popular with the people, than the race of statesmen."

Though Ford's views are exceptional for their disdain for the methods of politics, they have the ring of authenticity because of their lack of partisan flavor. Denunciations of politics and politicians in the nineteenth century were common, but they came most often as denunciations of the practices and practitioners of the opposite party. Ford spared almost no one; Democrat and Whig alike fell before his critical scythe.

Though nonpartisan in his criticism of politicians, Ford was nevertheless far from objective. His *History of Illinois* is colored by a prejudice not against any particular party but against parties themselves — or rather, against politics with or without parties. An especially revealing but little-known article on Ford's *History* in "The Illinois Bookshelf" column in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* for March, 1945, explains the reasons for Ford's peculiarly jaundiced views of the ways of politicians. Despite being an elected official himself, Ford's political success was achieved with a minimum of political effort. In 1835 the state legislature elected him circuit judge. In 1837 he became judge of the Chicago municipal court. In 1839 the legislature elected him circuit judge again, and in 1841 he joined the Illinois Supreme Court. In 1842 the Democratic candidate for governor died, and Ford replaced him with only ten weeks remaining before the election. Despite little time for campaigning, he won election in this overwhelmingly Democratic state. Thus, Ford

served as Illinois's governor without much campaigning and without ever having seen the state legislature at work. What he saw when he gained office must have shocked him. Another factor was Ford's long, painful, and losing battle against tuberculosis. He wrote his *History* in order to gain money for his five children, made indigent by his inability to make a living during his illness. The *History* embodies the bitter observations of a dying man. Ford died in 1850, leaving his manuscript with James Shields, who finally found a publisher for it in 1854.

Despite Ford's shock and disdain for politics, when he wrote his *History*, he could think of no better system than the one he had experienced. In fact, one could legitimately read Ford's book as a sober defense of the two-party system and an attack on the sophistication of the electorate. Throughout his *History*, Ford insisted "that, as a general thing, the government will be a type of the people." Whenever he denounced politicians and politics, he qualified his criticism by laying the ultimate blame on the ignorance or indifference of the people who elected them.

Likewise, when he criticized the political system, he often noted that the alternatives to it were far inferior. Discussing the period in Illinois before the emergence of two-party politics, Ford said:

There are those who are apt to believe that this mode of conducting elections [by personal rather than party contests] is likely to result in the choice of the best materials for administering government. . . . The idea of electing men for their merit has an attractive charm in it to generous minds; but in our history it has been as full of delusion as it has been attractive. Nor has the organization of regular parties, and the introduction of the new principle in elections of "measures not men," fully answered the expectation of its friends. But if the introduction of such parties, supposed to be founded on a difference in principles, has done no other good, it has greatly softened and abated the personal rancor and asperity of political contests, though it has made such contests increasing and eternal. It is to be regretted, however, if there be evils attending the contests of party, that society cannot receive the full benefit from them by the total extinction of all mere personal considerations, personal quarrels, and personal crimination, not necessary to exhibit the genius and tendency of a party as to measures, and which are merely incidental to contests for office. The present doctrine of parties is measures, not men, which if truly carried out would lead to a discussion of measures only. But parties are not yet sufficiently organized for this; and, accordingly, we find at every election much personal bitterness and invective mingled with the supposed contests for

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principle Perhaps the time may come when all these personal contests will be confined to the bosom of one party, in selecting the best candidates to carry out its principles. Ford could thus complain that parties were inadequately organized and denounce a party-less system, the dream of many an elitist critic of American politics.

Ford had no illusions about the workings of party politics; yet he recognized parties as, at worst, a necessary evil. He had a realistic view of party discipline:

The organization of men into political parties under the control of leaders as a means of government, necessarily destroys individuality of character and freedom of opinion. Government implies restraint, compulsion of either the body or mind, or both. The latest improvement to effect this restraint and compulsion is to use moral means, intellectual means operating on the mind instead of the old mode of using force, such as standing armies, fire, sword and the gibbet, to control the mere bodies of men. It is therefore a very common thing for men of all parties to make very great sacrifices of opinion, so as to bring themselves into conformity with the bulk of their party. And yet there is nothing more common than for the race of newspaper statesmen to denounce all such of the opposite party as yield their own opinions to the opinions of the majority, as truckling and servile. They may possibly be right in this. But undoubtedly such submission is often necessary to the existence of majorities, entertaining the same opinion. A little further experience may develop the fact, that when this means of securing majorities shall fail, the government will fall into anarchy.

Unlike many critics of politics and parties, Ford had no fear of majority will. His basic complaint was that majorities were poorly formed and represented, and that bipartisan measures frustrated any responsibility of politician or party to people. His criticism of the Internal Improvements Act of 1837, often pointed to as a glaring example of Lincoln's narrow Whig partisanship, was that it was advocated and passed as a bipartisan measure for the good of the whole state. "The vote in the legislature was not a party vote," said Ford, and

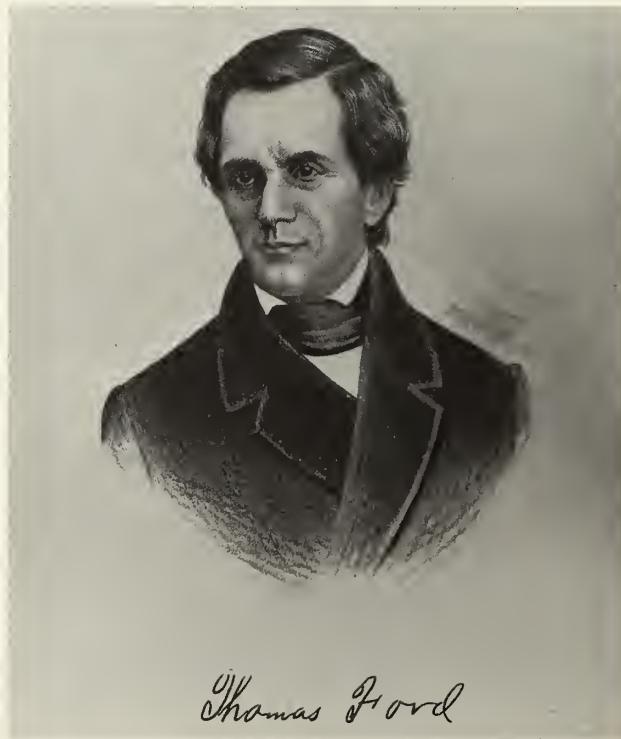
the banks were advocated and supported upon grounds of public utility and expediency; and like on the vote upon the internal improvement system, which followed at the next session, both whigs and democrats were earnestly invited to lay party feelings aside, and all go, at least once, for the good of the country. Whenever I have heard this cry since, I have always suspected that some great mischief was to be done, for which no party desired to be responsible to the people. As majorities have the power, so it is their duty to carry on the government. The majority, as long as parties are necessary in a free government, ought never to divide, and a portion of it join temporarily with the minority. It should always have the wisdom and courage to adopt all the measures necessary for good government. As a general thing, if the minority is anything more than a faction, if it has any principles, and is true to them, it will rally an opposition to all that is done by the majority; and even if it is convinced that the measures of the majority are right, it is safest for the minority to compel the majority to take the undivided responsibility of government. By this means there will always be a party to expose the faults and blunders of our rulers; and the majority will be more careful what they do.

Here Ford advocated the ultimate in the partisan ideal, the benefits of opposition to one party's program even when it seems to be a very proper program. This plea for disciplined, but responsible majorities looked forward to the proposals to institute in America cabinet government on the British model, proposals which were widely put forward towards the end of the nineteenth century.

As a theoretical commentator on the nature of party politics, Ford was unusual in his thoroughgoing defense of disciplined party majorities. In other respects, of course, he was a typical Democrat of his era. He thought that "no farmer ought ever to borrow money to carry on his farm." He blamed the internal improvements mania on "the general desire of sudden and unwarrantable gain; a dissatisfaction with the slow but sure profits of industry and lawful commerce, produced a general phrenzy." His ideal political system looked back to the storybook democracy of the early New England town:

My own opinion of the convention system is, that it can never be perfect in Illinois, without the organization of little township democracies, such as are found in New York and New England; that in a State where the people are highly intelligent, and not indifferent to public affairs, it will enable the people themselves to govern, by giving full effect to the will of the majority; but among a people who are either ignorant of or indifferent to the affairs of their government, the convention system is a most admirable contrivance to enable active leaders to govern without much responsibility to the people.

Thomas Ford's very good book has been used to very bad effect. Historians have used its strictures on the unsavory motives and methods of politicians to criticize political parties; yet Ford was himself a staunch defender of party politics. The book has been mined by historians but generally misread by them. Showing almost a tenderfoot's pique at the methods of state legislators, Ford has been seen as an unimpassioned and objective observer of party politics. The book should be used carefully by students of Lincoln's early political career, but it should be used. It deserves a better fate than historians have thus far allowed it.



Thomas Ford

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FIGURE 4. Thomas Ford as pictured in the *Portrait and Biographical Album of Sangamon County, Illinois*.



Lincoln Lore

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Mary Jane Hubler, Editorial Assistant. Published each month by the
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Number 1698

JACK TAR AND ABE LINCOLN: HOW THE SAILORS VOTED IN '64

Voting in the field was a hot issue in Lincoln's day, and it has troubled historians ever since. As early as 1861, President Lincoln heard with favor General Benjamin F. Butler's proposal to recruit Massachusetts troops personally. What made the proposal attractive was the hope that this Democratic general could attract Democratic citizens who would otherwise stay home and vote against the Republicans. In 1862 David Davis worried that Republican Leonard Swett would lose the race in Lincoln's old congressional district in Illinois because loyal voters were in the ranks and away from home, leaving only the disloyal to vote the Republicans out. By 1864 most states had solved the problem by allowing soldiers to vote in the field. This did not solve the historian and political analyst's problem, however. Questions about the fairness of that voting remain. Was the Army overwhelmingly exposed to the blandishments of pro-administration newspapers and propaganda? Did the politics of the commanding officers prevent a free and fair election in their units?

These questions remain largely unanswered, and, in the arguments over them, one body of voters has been overlooked altogether: the men who voted, not in the field, but on the decks of the ships of the United States Navy. At first blush, it seems that these might safely be lumped with the soldiers; whatever historical and political factors explain the one should explain the other. A closer look at the correspondence of the harried politicians who struggled for Lincoln's reelection in 1864 shows that soldiers and sailors were, at least as voters, very different groups of men.

Although historians have largely forgotten the sailors' votes, politicians at the time did not. Thurlow Weed, "The Dictator" of New York Republican politics, became "so anxious about the Navy Vote" that on October 10, 1864, he wrote President Lincoln about the problem. And the sailors' votes did pose a special problem: how could an agent distribute ballots to men at sea without a seagoing vessel by which to reach them? They could not, and such vessels were not easy to come by for civilian purposes in wartime. In New



FIGURE 1. These men were potential voters — but for whom?

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FIGURE 2. The ship that carried Weed's agent to the blockading squadron, the *Circassian*, is on the reader's right.

York City, Simeon Draper, Collector of the Port of New York and head of the enormous patronage-dispensing New York Custom House, wrote George Harrington, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, "for a steamer (Revenue cutter) to go to the Blockading Squadron." Harrington apparently failed to understand the important political purpose of the mission and failed at first to lend the cutter. Weed, however, telegraphed Harrington and was confident of a "a favorable answer."

Like all good political managers, "The Dictator" was inexhaustible in his efforts to seek out potential voters. While he worked on getting a revenue cutter to visit the blockading squadron, he also fretted about "the vote of the Sailors on the Mississippi" River. Weed wrote Frederick Seward, Secretary of State William H. Seward's son and his Assistant Secretary of State, "asking him to obtain a Government Steamer . . . to go from Cairo [Illinois] down the River to the different Gun Boats." If he succeeded in obtaining the necessary vessels, Weed promised President Lincoln, "we shall save many thousand Votes."

Weed's letter got immediate results. On October 11, 1864, Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward called on crusty Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy. Welles accommodated the President's request, but, as his diary entry for that day shows, the Navy Secretary distrusted anything which bore the stamp of approval of William H. Seward and his crafty manager Thurlow Weed:

The President and Seward called on me . . . relative to New York voters in the Navy. Wanted one of our boats to be placed at the disposal of the New York commission to gather votes in the Mississippi Squadron. A Mr. Jones was referred to, who subsequently came to me with a line from the President, and wanted also to send to the blockading squadrons. Gave permission to go by the *Circassian*, and directed commanders to extend facilities to all voters.

Much is said and done in regard to the soldier's vote, and many of the States not only have passed laws but altered

their constitutions to permit it. The subject is one that has not struck me favorably. I have not perhaps given the subject the consideration that I ought — certainly not enough to advocate it, and yet it seems ungracious to oppose it. Were I to vote on this question at all, I should, with my present impressions, vote against it.

The administration and the New York Republicans acted quickly, but not quickly enough. On October 21, one J. Springsteen wrote Weed from Cairo that he had arrived on Tuesday, but "There was no Boat to be had without waiting until they Could repair [the] dispatch Gun Boat *Volunteer* which would take till Friday or Saturday." Springsteen was "waiting patiently," but he feared "failure for the reason that [Democratic incumbent] Gov. Seymours agents were here some ten days ago Collecting the Votes here and then went on a Gun Boat for New Orleans Stopping all Boats they will meet." Weed's agent did what he could while marooned at Cairo. There and seven miles away at Mound City were six boats. On the *Great Western*, he found "about 30 from our State of which they [the Democrats] got all but Seven which I got." On the other five vessels, he reported gloomily, "we did not get a vote." The only redeeming feature was that few of the river sailors were from New York. Springsteen tried the twelve marines stationed at Cairo and got only one vote to the opponents' eleven.

Springsteen reported that the Democratic agents procured "a great many votes by Saying it is there only Chance." Apparently the agents told the sailors that no Republican agents were coming. He also found "a great dissatisfaction among the men that they are not paid." He had very little hope for favorable results from the rest of the vessels in the squadron of fifty boats.

News from the blockading squadron was little better. The excitable Weed scrawled a letter to President Lincoln, saying that the "Adversary is making the Canvass sanguinary." The political battle seemed desperate, and news from a Major Richardson, dispatched to get the votes from the blockading squadron, was bad. The major had written Weed from

Beaufort, North Carolina, to tell him he found "most of the Sailors against us." The explanation was simple: "They are largely Irish."

The dependence of the United States Navy on foreign-born seamen had long troubled naval reformers and Secretaries of the Navy. As early as 1825, Samuel Southard, Secretary of the Navy under President John Quincy Adams, had recommended excluding even naturalized immigrants from the service. In 1837 Congress sought a solution by passing a bill to recruit naval apprentices, eighteen years of age, who, they hoped, would be native Americans. Recruited mostly from the large cities on the coast which had a seafaring tradition, the apprentices themselves were frequently of foreign birth or parentage. In 1864 the ethnic composition of the United States Navy was a political problem for the Republican administration. Irish-Americans were consistently Democratic voters.

Thurlow Weed reported another problem to the President: "Another Agent writes to the State Committee that Admiral Lee is against us." Samuel Phillips Lee was an acting rear admiral, well connected in the Lincoln administration. He was Postmaster General Montgomery Blair's brother-in-law. He had fought at New Orleans in 1862, which gained him promotion to command the North Atlantic blockading squadron off Virginia and North Carolina. There he was most successful in capturing blockade-runners, but Gideon Welles thought his "caution runs into timidity." Lee was no man to command a fleet to attack Wilmington, North Carolina; he was "destitute of heroic daring." Therefore, Welles transferred Lee to the Mississippi River. The Blair family's origins were Democratic, and this Virginia-born brother-in-law was evidently a Democrat and not at all helpful to the Republican agents who came to distribute ballots to the river gunboats.

Just before the election, Weed conferred with Major Richardson, who had returned from his expedition "to collect Sailors votes" from the blockading squadron. Though "a most thorough man," Major Richardson was not successful.

"The Sailors are nearly all against us," Weed told the President. "The Officers generally were right," although "the Commander of one of the finest Vessels was hostile and abusive." The sailors opposed the administration, Weed reported, "for a simple but potent reason — *their Grog has been stop [ped]!*"³

On September 1, 1862, the United States Navy stopped issuing the "spirit ration," long a target of temperance reformers and naval reformers. War and a moralistic Republican administration seem finally to have tipped the scale in the reformers' favor. Hard-drinking and tradition-bound seamen apparently detested the move. At the time of the American Revolution, sailors went to the revolutionary cause in overwhelming numbers because of the practice of British custom commissioners who inspected their personal sea chests for goods on which a duty was owed. Traditionally, these trunks had been exempt from such inspections; in fact sailors regarded their personal sea chests as sacred. They were also notorious for liking their grog, and the end of the spirit ration probably earned the administration the common sailors' undying hatred. Disrupting traditions of the sea was dangerous business.

Weed reported that Major Richardson "secured only about 500 Votes," a disappointing figure for the state of New York, which contained the nation's most important port and probably supplied an enormous percentage of the Union's sailors. The only silver lining to be found in this gloomy political cloud was that "the Adversary did not move in that direction." Though Governor Seymour was apparently diligent about the river fleet, the Democrats largely forgot the blockading squadron. The problem was probably not lack of cooperation with the Democrats by the Navy Department. Gideon Welles prided himself on keeping the Navy above partisanship.

President Lincoln, of course, was most grateful for the large role the Navy played in bringing Union victory in the Civil War. When he was invited to attend the National Sailors' Fair to be held in Boston right after the election, Lincoln wrote a



FIGURE 3. A Union river gunboat fleet meanders up a Southern waterway.

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FIGURE 4. Thurlow Weed's behavior during the Civil War seemed thoroughly out of character. In the past he had been largely indifferent to policy, but he became so upset at Lincoln's policies that he nearly broke with the administration.

gracious note in *lieu* of attending. He wrote the note, ironically, on election day:

Allow me to wish you a great success. With the old fame of the Navy, made brighter in the present war, you can not fail. I name none, lest I wrong others by omission. To all, from Rear Admiral, to honest Jack I tender the Nation's admiration and gratitude [.]

Lincoln was sincerely grateful for the sailors' services in the war, but politically he could have done without them. Jack Tar was a Democrat.

LINCOLN AUTOGRAPHED DEBATES: THE ARCHIBALD WILLIAMS COPY

This is the seventh article in a series on the signed presentation copies of the *Political Debates Between Hon. Abraham Lincoln and Hon. Stephen A. Douglas in the Celebrated Campaign of 1858, in Illinois*. The copy bearing the inscription, "To Hon: Archibald Williams, with respects of A. Lincoln," was the property of Kenneth K. Bechtel of San Francisco when Harry E. Pratt wrote "Lincoln Autographed Debates" for *Manuscripts* in 1954. It is now the property of the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley. The library was unable to describe the book's history since Mr. Bechtel's ownership.

Archibald Williams was born in Kentucky in 1801. He came to Quincy, Illinois, in 1829. There he established a successful law practice. Quincy lay in what was called the Military Tract, the land between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers most of which had been granted as bounties to soldiers in the War of 1812. Most of the veterans were forced to sell their claims to Eastern land speculators. Some lost them in tax sales, not realizing their liability to pay taxes on the claims. Questions of priority of ownership and clarity of title racked the Military Tract, and it became a paradise for lawyers (who could get good fees from the well-heeled speculators and their agents). Williams was soon noted for his abilities as a lawyer in land disputes.

Williams became acquainted with Lincoln when both men served in the Illinois Legislature at Vandalia in the 1830s. The Quincy Whig served in the Illinois Senate from 1832-1836 and in the Illinois House from 1836-1840. Usher F. Linder remembered Lincoln and Williams sitting near each other in the southeast corner of the old State House in Vandalia; they were "great friends," he said. Legal work also brought the two men together. Lincoln was associated with Williams in several cases and apparently took some of the Quincy lawyer's cases on appeal to the Illinois Supreme Court in Springfield.

Both former Kentuckians were Henry Clay Whigs. In 1848, when Lincoln dropped Clay for Zachary Taylor and some hope of winning, Williams was apparently slow to switch his loyalties. Lincoln told him flatly, "Mr. Clay's chance for an election, is just no chance at all." Both Williams and Lincoln were friends of Orville Hickman Browning, another Quincy lawyer and active Whig politician. "I know our good friend Browning," Lincoln told Williams, "is a great admirer of Mr. Clay, and I therefore fear, he is favoring his nomination." Lincoln instructed Williams to ask Browning "to discard feeling, and try if he can possibly, as a matter of judgment, count the votes necessary to elect him." Williams evidently jumped on the Taylor bandwagon, for, after the election, Lincoln wrote a letter recommending his appointment as U.S. District Attorney (Lincoln did not like the idea of rewarding holdouts for Clay's nomination with appointive offices). Williams gained the appointment and held office until the Democrats took over the Presidency in 1853. In 1852 he joined with Lincoln in organizing a meeting to express sympathy for Hungarian revolutionary Louis Kossuth.

In 1854 Williams joined the many Illinois Whigs who denounced the Kansas-Nebraska Act. He ran for Congress, but, even with Lincoln's help (he came to Quincy to make a speech in Williams's behalf), he lost. Williams evidently had designs on the United States Senate seat to be filled by the state legislature in 1855. Lincoln wanted the seat too, but he explained to a legislator apparently pledged to Williams: "Of course I prefer myself to all others; yet it is neither in my heart nor my conscience to say I am any better man than Mr. Williams." Despite their competing ambitions, Lincoln and Williams were evidently in substantial agreement on political principles in this tumultuous period of confusing politics. Lincoln told one supporter in 1855 that a set of resolutions Williams had drawn up fairly accurately described the ground on which he would be willing to "fuse" with other anti-Nebraska groups. Three years later Williams was once again mentioned as a competitor for the Senate seat Lincoln sought in his historic campaign against Stephen A. Douglas.

Ambition for office did not drive the two men apart. The copy of the *Debates* which Lincoln gave Williams is some evidence of this (Lincoln also gave Williams's law partner Jackson Grimshaw a signed copy). Even more important was President Lincoln's appointment of Williams as U.S. District Judge in Kansas.

Usher Linder remembered Williams as a man "over six feet high, and as angular and ungainly in his form as Mr. Lincoln himself; and for homeliness of face and feature, surpassed Mr. Lincoln." Linder also recalled that Lincoln thought highly of Williams as "the strongest-minded and clearest headed man he ever saw." Linder, who knew both men in the legislature, was a Universalist in religion and thought everyone would go to heaven. If he was correct in his "views of the mercies of God," Linder said long after his old friend Archie Williams was dead, "he is now walking the golden streets with Douglas and Lincoln."

Letters



Leo de Wys

A close-up of the statue in the Lincoln Memorial.

Lincoln Tour

To the Editor: The Lincoln pilgrimage "From Hodgenville to Washington," by Herbert Mitgang (Travel, Feb. 14) might have started a little earlier and a few miles to the east. There is, at Harrodsburg, Ky., on the grounds of the restored "Old Fort Harrod" what is called the Lincoln Wedding Chapel, a log cabin in which Lincoln's parents were married. If one is making the Lincoln tour, why not start there?

THE REV. LAURENCE J. JAMES
Eastern Orthodox Chaplain,
Ohio University,
Athens, Ohio

To the Editor: Having traced the path of our 16th President this past sum-

mer, I would like to add another item to your Lincoln article.

This is Vandalia, Ill., the capital of the state from 1819 to 1839. It was in the Supreme Court Room of the Vandalia State House that Abraham Lincoln received his license to practice law on Sept. 9, 1836. It was here, also, that Stephen A. Douglas and Lincoln met for the first time while both were serving as legislators.

It is said that Lincoln, as the leader of a group known as the "Long Nine" (their total height was 54 feet), was influential in the passage of a bill removing the capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

Today the Vandalia State House is restored and operated as a historic site under the jurisdiction of the Illinois Department of Conservation.

STANLEY L. BOGDANOWICZ
Cedar Grove, N.J.

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HOME

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Vandalia, in the land of Lincoln

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There is an old story that you may have heard about the man and his wife who moved to a new community, and soon after they got settled in, he asked one of the locals what kind of people lived there.

The local said, "Well, what kind of people did you have in the community where you lived before?"

He went on to say, "you will find the same kind of people here in this community."

While this may not be true in every case, it is certainly a good rule of thumb that warrants consideration. If the people in the former community were warm and friendly, there is a better than average chance the people in the new community will be warm and friendly, too. If they were unfriendly, clannish, arrogant or just plain mean, the odds are good the people in the new community will be that way, as well.

You understand, of course, the most important thing in determining our relationship with other people depends on our own attitude and what kind of person we are. In most cases, our lives are much like a mirror.

The image or picture we see of others is really a reflection of us. Now, what I have just said is basically true because of human nature, but there are distinct differences in people in different parts of the country, and this is especially true if the community has a large ethnic population.

Over the past several months, I have been privileged to speak in a number of different areas of the country and have really and truly enjoyed the people in each one of them.

In addition to meeting some great people, one of the things that really interests me is the history of each community and the unique landmarks that preserve the past for future generations. Such was the case back on Jan. 27, 2005, when I was privileged to speak to the Vandalia Chamber of Commerce Banquet in Illinois.

I make this distinction because there is also a Vandalia, Missouri, and Vandalia, Ohio. I found some genuine and wonderful people in this community and I am grateful to the chamber officers and staff who made me feel at home. Also Publisher Dave Bell, Editor Rich Bauer and the fine people at the Leader-Union newspaper, who run my column.

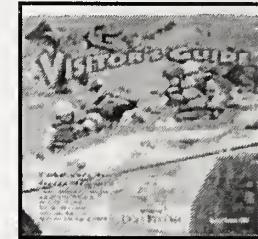
One thing I certainly didn't know before going to Vandalia is that this community served as the second capital of the state of Illinois. It was founded in 1819, became the capital for

Search

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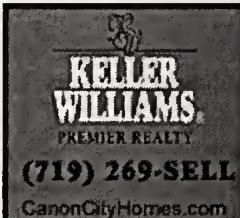
News and Information from Cañon City and the Greater Royal Gorge Region

Tuesday, October 09, 2007

**Critical MASS**

A community grapples with a uranium mill's past, present and future
Cotter at the Crossroads

**click here to view
COTTER
license application**



the "new" state and the present site was in the midst of a wilderness on the fringe of land still claimed by Indian tribes.

This state Capitol building, which is the community's most historic landmark, is where President Abraham Lincoln began his legislative career as a state representative from 1834 to 1839.

During this time, he made his first protests against slavery and he also received his license to practice law. Looking at the size today, it's hard to believe the new city of Chicago received its city charter from the state Capitol in Vandalia.

There is a statue of "Honest Abe" across the street in a park where one can sit on a bench and have his picture taken with President Lincoln, with the old state Capitol building in the background.

The old state Capitol is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, including Sunday. Free-guided tours are provided and tour buses are welcome. There are other tourist attractions to see, such as the Madonna of the Trail statue donated in 1928 by the Daughters of the American Revolution in memory of the pioneer mothers of covered wagon days.

This famous statue marks the terminus of the Cumberland Road. The Cumberland Road was the first highway built by the federal government and opened up the interior of the country for development.

The only people who can drastically impact this situation are the people who live there. I am pleased to report to you we have a number of communities who have literacy campaigns already under way and some great things happening as more tutors get face to face with people who want to learn to read.

CAÑON CITY DAILY RECORD

News and Information from Cañon City and the Greater Royal Gorge Region

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Vandalia's love-hate relationship with Lincoln

12:00 a.m. CST

12:00 a.m. CST

chicagotribune.com



At age 25, Abraham Lincoln arrived in Vandalia with a new suit bought with borrowed money. In November 1834, the young man was about to get his first taste of politics as a newly elected state representative.

This town about four hours south of Chicago served as Illinois' capital for 20 years. Lincoln's legacy is evident at the modest, three-story State House, carefully restored to how it appeared in the 1830s.

Locals boast that Lincoln not only cut his teeth in politics but first practiced law in Vandalia. For some folks, though, it's a love-hate relationship.

Vandalia might still be the state capital were it not for Lincoln. He was one of the leaders of the campaign to move the capital to Springfield.

"There must have been some resentment," said Linda Hanabarger, a local historian who leads tours through the old State House. "It must have looked as though the capital was stolen from us."

One original walnut desk remains in the House chamber on the second floor. The Senate met just across the hall. Downstairs, visitors can see where the Supreme Court sat, along with the offices of the auditor, secretary of state and treasurer. The governor wasn't considered important enough to have his own office.

To celebrate Lincoln's Feb. 12 birthday, a ball will be held Saturday at the Moose Lodge, 328 S. Third St., Vandalia. Admission is free to those in period costume; otherwise it's \$5. Contact Connie Bolyard at 618-267-2232. At 2 p.m. Sunday, a historical presentation about Lincoln's life will be held at the old Capitol.

The State House (315 W. Gallatin St., Vandalia; 618-283-1161; tinyurl.com/vandaliahistory) is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday in winter. Further information about Lincoln in Vandalia can be found at vandaliaillinois.com.

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LINCOLN, AT 25, NAMED MEMBER OF LEGISLATURE

Led Log-Rolling To Bring
Capital From Vandalia
To Springfield.

In the fall of 1834, Lincoln, then 25 years old, set out for Vandalia by stage, arriving in time for the opening session of the state legislature on Dec. 1. In the election of the previous August, he had polled the second highest number of votes for state representative. Four representatives were elected.

Vandalia wasn't a very large town—its population was around six hundred—nor were the buildings in the town calculated to excite admiration. Nevertheless it had two church buildings, several inns and two newspapers. It was in the Methodist church that Lincoln first took his seat, for the new capitol building had not yet been erected.

Lincoln did not make a name for himself at this session or the extra one called in December, 1835. However, he must have learned a good deal, for in the tenth general assembly he led the "Long Nine" in their strategy to bring the state capital to Springfield.

Totaled Fifty-Four Feet.

A new apportionment had been made in '36, which allotted Sangamon county two senators and seven representatives, giving it the largest delegation in the state. Archer G. Herndon and Job Fletcher sat in the senate, and Lincoln, William F. Elkin, Ninian W. Edwards, John Dawson, Daniel Stone, Robert L. Wilson and Andrew McCormick in the house. Because these gentlemen totaled in height fifty-four feet, the appellation of the "Long Nine" was given them.

When the assembly met in 1836, they convened in the new state house, built by the town in hope of keeping the capital there. But the "Long Nine" played a smart game. While every other town and county in the state was clamoring for its share of internal improvements—these were the rage at the time—the Sangamon county delegation concentrated on one objective, to bring the capital to Springfield.

Already a popular vote had picked Alton for the new capital. But only 25,000 votes were cast in this referendum, 8,000 less than were cast for governor at the same time. Lincoln and his colleagues steered away from a vote on the capital question, however, until the internal improvement issue was finally settled. Then, by trading, they had enough votes to put Springfield out in front.

Wen On Fourth Ballot.

On Feb. 25, 1837, the law locating the capital by popular vote was repealed. The matter then rested with the legislature and Springfield won on the fourth ballot. On July 4 the

cornerstone for the new state house was laid on the square in Springfield. Work continued through '38 and '39, and on June 20 of the latter year, Governor Thomas Carlin issued a proclamation ordering the state officers to remove from Vandalia to Springfield.

Vandalia's old state house still stands. For many years it was used as the Fayette county courthouse. Now it is state property. The building is in much the same condition as when Lincoln served there, except that the large brick columns that supported the north and south porticos were replaced in 1899 by ugly iron columns and balconies.

Early Laws Enacted Here

Enacted in the legislature during the years of the third capitol (1836-37, that is) were the first school laws of the state, the act which incorporated the "town of Chicago" and the first internal improvement laws.

Vandalia, with a population of 6,000, is the county seat for Fayette County. (The Fayette County Courthouse occupied the present Statehouse Memorial building from 1839 until 1933.) Chief industries in the bustling little city, with some narrow streets comparable to a few in Fort Wayne, are a shoe factory, a dress factory and a beverage bottling plant. U.S. 40, a major highway between Indianapolis and St. Louis, now passes through the town where the Cumberland Road once ran.

WHERE THE TWO GREAT HIGHWAYS CROSS



OLD CAPITOL BUILDING

VANDALIA ILLINOIS

CAPITAL OF THE STATE, 1819-1839



A GOOD TOWN-A FRIENDLY PEOPLE

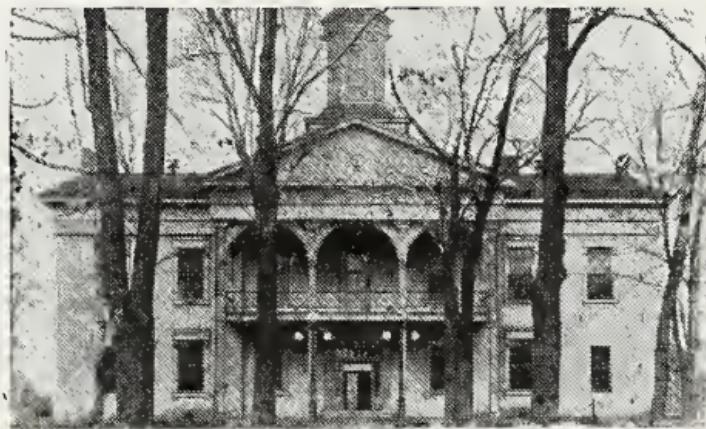
Grandalia

STATE HOUSE



THIS IS YOUR PARK
PRESERVE ITS NATURAL BEAUTY

WHERE THE TWO GREAT HIGHWAYS CROSS



OLD CAPITOL BUILDING

VANDALIA ILLINOIS

CAPITAL OF THE STATE, 1819-1839



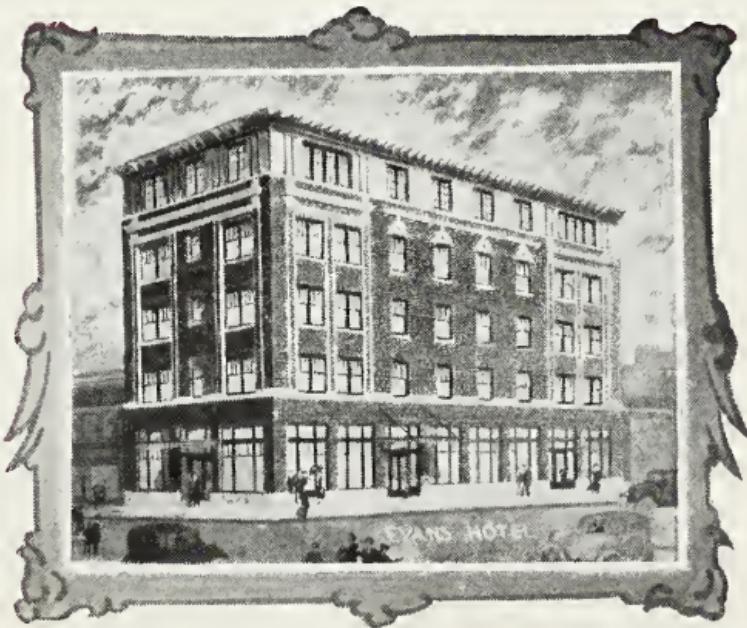
A GOOD TOWN-A FRIENDLY PEOPLE

HOTEL EVANS

VANDALIA, ILLINOIS

100 Rooms ---- \$1.50 and Up

— Elevator Service —



“On the Main Street of the U. S. A.”

Vandalia is located at the crossing of two great transcontinental highways, the National Old Trails, or U. S. 40, and the Meridian Line, or U. S. 51, and at the junction of two equally great railways, the Illinois Central and Pennsylvania lines; it is fortunate indeed. Here travelers, tourists, home-seekers and visitors will find a cordial welcome and entertainment that is homelike.

Under the Management of
C. A. EVANS and M. C. ROBBINS

AS YOU LOOK upon the Old Capitol Building, standing in a beautifully shaded square in the center of the business section of Vandalia, think of it as a monument of the most important period in the history of this great commonwealth of ours.

On March 3, 1819, the State of Illinois was granted by Congress four sections of land within the State, to be used as a seat for government, and the act was approved by the Legislature which met at Kaskaskia. A Board of Commissioners was appointed to select an appropriate location. Seeking a site, they shot a deer and as they camped, they decided the delightful spot they were in should be the location of the State House. Their report was accepted and this site was selected. They employed Wm. E. Greenup and John McCullum to survey the Town of Vandalia, and one block was reserved on which to erect the Capitol Building.

The first State House was a two-story log structure, on the corner of Fifth and Johnson streets, one block west and one block south of this site. This building was destroyed by fire during the third session of the Legislature held at Vandalia, December 9, 1823. The new one was more pretentious, being a two-story brick structure, put up in the summer of 1824, at a cost of \$15,000, of which the people of Vandalia contributed \$3,000.

The present structure was built in the summer of 1836, by Col. James T. B. Stapp, Levi Davis and Alexander P. Field, at a cost, exclusive of material from the old building which they tore down, of \$16,000. It was remodeled in 1859, and in 1902 the massive brick pillars which supported the porches on the north and south were replaced by the present iron supports. With the exception of some minor changes on the interior and the installation of a furnace the building stands today as it stood during the interesting years when so much important early history was wrought.

Vandalia was the Capitol for twenty years, from 1819 to 1839. Seven Governors administered the

affairs of state here. They were Shadrach Bond, 1818; Edward Coles, 1822; Ninian Edwards, 1826; John Reynolds, 1830; William L. D. Ewing (only 15 days) 1834; Joseph Duncan, 1834; Thomas Carlin, 1838.

The first general school law was enacted by the Legislature here in 1825. The Black Hawk War was fought; the "town of Chicago" was incorporated, Elijah P. Lovejoy was assassinated at Alton; the first locomotive in Illinois was run on the Northern Cross Railroad, while Vandalia was yet the Capitol.

Abraham Lincoln served in the Legislature here, riding horseback from Springfield to attend the sessions. The "long nine," two senators and seven representatives, led by Lincoln, succeeded in their efforts to have the Capitol removed to Springfield, that city winning on the fourth ballot in the Legislature in 1837.

In connection with the struggle over the removal of the Capitol it is recorded that Lincoln jumped out of the window at the southwest corner of the legislative chamber, now the court room, in order to defeat a quorum, and thus prevented the continuation of the Capitol of Illinois in Vandalia for another twenty years.

The Old Capitol Building was acquired by the State of Illinois in 1919, to be preserved as a memorial and state park, but by arrangement with the County of Fayette is being used as a Court House until such as the county can erect a new court house. It is greatly reverenced by the people of this city and county and will be by the people of the entire State as its rich historical value becomes more generally known.

In the vestibule of the Presbyterian Church, northeast corner of the square, you may find the first church bell to call a Protestant congregation to worship in Illinois.

"The Cumberland Road, built by the Federal Government, was authorized by Congress and approved by Thomas Jefferson in 1806. Vandalia marks the Western Terminus."

The Madonna Monument

The Monument to the Pioneer Mothers, erected in Vandalia, Illinois, and dedicated October 26, 1928, is the gift to Illinois and the Nation of the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is one of twelve erected by this patriotic organization and marking The National Old Trails Road through twelve states. It is an expression of the appreciation of grateful generations for the sacrifices that the Pioneer Mothers made. It stands as a Sentinel to remind us of the great highway that had its day of activity as an artery of early transcontinental travel, and is no less important as such in this new day.

The Monument, of algonite material and pinkish cast, eighteen feet high, weighing several tons, stands on historic ground.

Designed by Mrs. John Trigg Moss in collaboration with her son, John Trigg Moss, Jr. Mrs. Moss is Past Vice-President General N. S. D. A. R.

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OFFICIAL  HOTEL

Cafe and Coffee Shop

Open from 5:00 a. m. — to — 12:00 Midnight

CHICKEN DINNERS

OPPOSITE-WHERE-LINCOLN-JUMPED



MADONNA OF THE TRAIL

**N. S. D. A. R. Memorial to the Pioneer Mothers
of the Covered Wagon Days**

(See Page 4 for description of Monument)

Vandalia STATE HOUSE

Although a rented building in Kaskaskia was the first "State House" from 1818 to 1820, the first Capitol erected by the State was in Vandalia, the capital city from 1820 to 1839.

The removal of the capital from Kaskaskia to Vandalia grew out of a mania for speculation, historians state, since it was believed by many that money could be made by starting a land boom in a new location. Accordingly Congress was petitioned, and four sections of land were granted the State providing that a town be laid out on the site and the State capital remain there for twenty years. The choice of the grant was limited to the Kaskaskia River, "as near as might be east of the third principal meridian on that river." The place selected by the Board of Commissioners appointed for the purpose was known as Reeve's Bluff, situated on the right bank of the river.

The site was cleared, named Vandalia and a two-story log "State House" was constructed. The State archives were hauled from Kaskaskia in a small wagon and on December 4, 1820, the first session of the Second General Assembly met here. The log Capitol was unsatisfactory, however, and did not provide office space for many of the offices. It burned during the third session of the General Assembly, December 9, 1823.

A brick building was completed in 1822 to house the State Bank and a number of the State offices. This building burned the following year with all the records except those of the Secretary of State destroyed.

In 1824 the townspeople of Vandalia, using the salvaged material from the burned Bank building erected the second State House. This remained the State House until 1836 when in an effort to keep the capital at Vandalia the townspeople again erected another unauthorized State House at a cost of \$16,000. The State accepted the building early in 1837, but a few weeks later the General Assembly by a joint vote selected Springfield to succeed Vandalia as the capital.

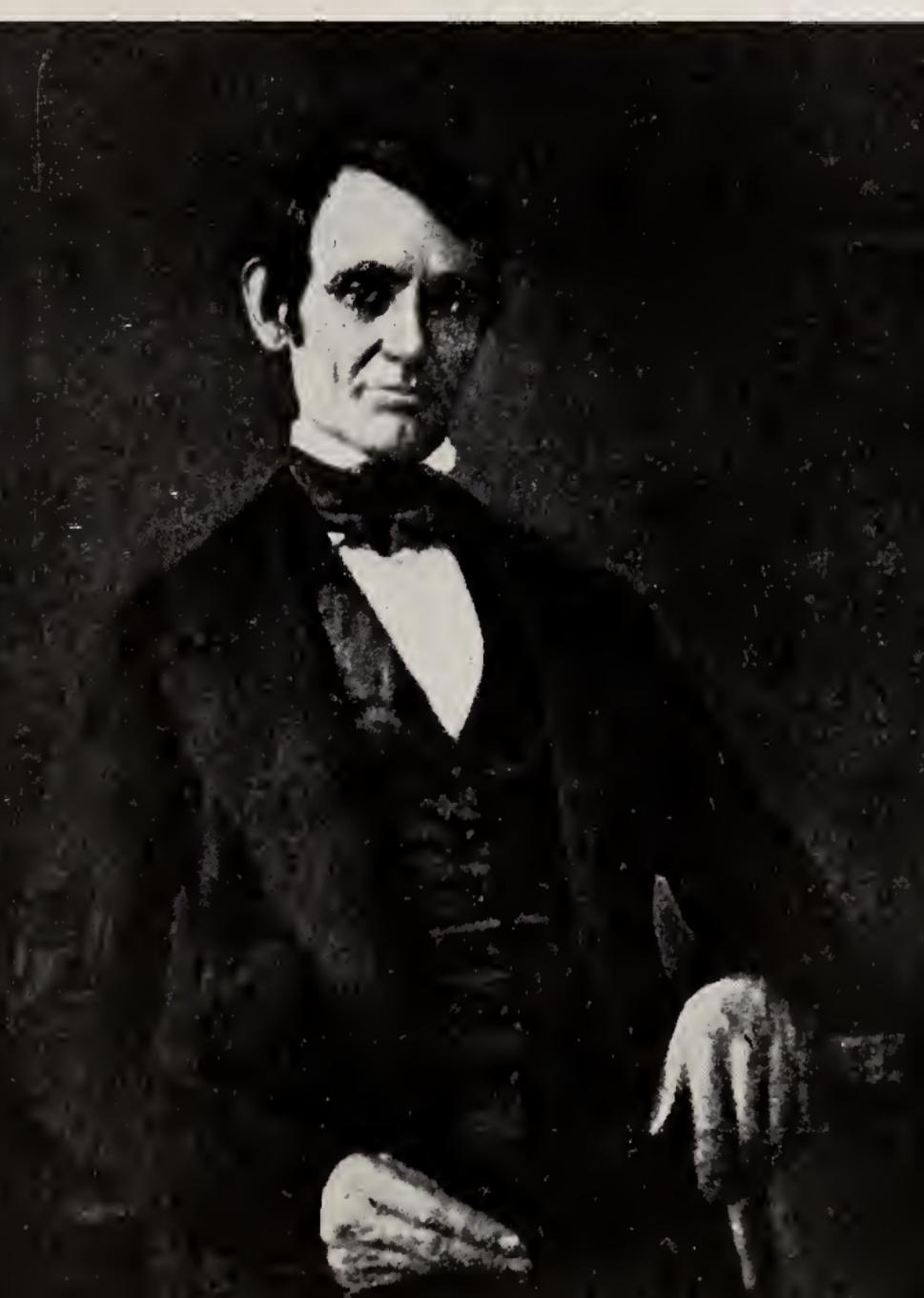
In 1837, when the struggle over the location of the capital was at its height, Vandalia supporters urged as an argument that while their city was metropolitan, it would be necessary in Springfield to live on venison, bear meat, and prairie chicken. This was not the case, but in Vandalia "hog meat" was plentiful, taverns dispensed imported vintages and living conditions, generally, were advanced as became the political and social capital of the State. Parties, dances and other forms of gaiety held sway while the Assembly was in session, and capital hostesses vied with each other in providing entertainment for the legislators.

Enacted in the Legislature during these years were the first school laws of Illinois, the act incorporating the "town of Chicago," and the first internal improvement laws.

Abraham Lincoln served in the Legislature, crossing the prairies between the Sangamon and the Kaskaskia on horseback or by stage. The recognized leader of the "Long Nine," two senators and seven representatives from Sangamon County averaging 200 pounds in weight, all six feet or more in height, Lincoln was largely responsible for the moving of the capital to Springfield.

On the corner of the State House ground is "The Madonna of the Trail," a monument to pioneer mothers, dedicated in 1928, a gift to Illinois and the Nation from the Daughters of the American Revolution. It is one of a series erected by this patriotic organization marking the National Old Trails Road through twelve states. Vandalia in the early days was the terminus of this highway, authorized by Thomas Jefferson in 1806, known as the Cumberland Road, later as the National Trail. Today Vandalia lies along U. S. Route 40.

• First known photograph of Lincoln taken in Springfield, 1846

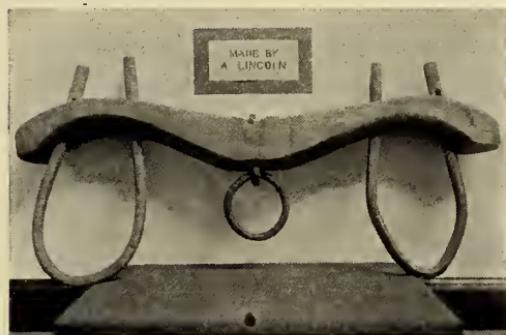




MISSOURI
Commemorating the Missouri Statehood Bicentennial
Divisions of Labor



THE OLD CAPITOL, VANDALIA, ILLINOIS
Photograph by T. E. O'Donnell



OX-YOKE MADE BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Property of University of Illinois, Urbana

6118
NLLC
1928

Vandalia loses to Springfield

The first state house was a rented building in Kaskaskia. The first Capitol was erected in Vandalia in 1820. Later, with other Illinois towns offering better locations and facilities, a battle began to move the capital elsewhere.

The issue split Illinois into two major divisions — north and south. Areas that held promise of



rapid development wanted the state capital to be located there so they could grow larger, faster. The town of Alton, for example, made the argument that it could become the "great city of the Northwest," and a potent rival to St. Louis. Jacksonville took another tack, asserting that it had a college, was a cultured area, and had a burgeoning population. Peoria stood on its growing manufacturing complex and location on the main water and rail routes. Springfield said it should be considered because, more than any other major city, it was closest to the center of Illinois.

The turning point came when Sangamon County, in which Springfield was located, elected two senators and seven representatives to the General Assembly.



First capitol—Vandalia

"Amongst them were some dexterous jugglers (Abraham Lincoln was one) and managers in politics, whose whole object was to obtain the seat of government for Springfield," said Governor Thomas Ford. "This delegation from the beginning of the session threw itself as a unit in support of, or opposition to, every local measure of interest—but never without a bargain for votes in return on the seat of government question. Most of the other counties were small, having but one representative, and this gave Sangamon County a decided preponderance in the log-rolling system of those days."

In due time, these nine men had collected enough support to push

the issue (in return for which they promised favor in the internal improvements program to those who supported them). On June 20, 1839, the Governor issued a proclamation removing the capital from Vandalia to Springfield.

The horse trading of the Sangamon group left a bad taste in the mouths of many. Stephen A. Douglas, who had held out for Jacksonville to the very last, declared later that the "Sangamon crowd had traded everything in the state to get the capital for Springfield."

No matter now. The stately old Capitol in Vandalia, with its elegant stairway, maroon-colored draperies, is one of the loveliest restored Illinois buildings.

That was long ago. But until 1933, when this area was declared a National Forest, the land lay barren. Then, the Civilian Conservation Corps planted trees, built roads, strung telephone lines, built and manned lookout towers. Now only an experienced eye can tell where the original tree line ends and the 1933 trees begin.

With the trees came fawn, grouse, wild turkey, beaver, possum, raccoon, woodchuck.... Wood ducks nest here in summer. Cana-

dian geese, mallards winter here.

Thanks to the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs, anyone with a decent pair of walking shoes can now follow Rim Rock Trail and see the strange rock formations in the Garden of the Gods — Anvil Rock, Camel Rock. . . . In 1963, club members raised the funds necessary to build the trail.

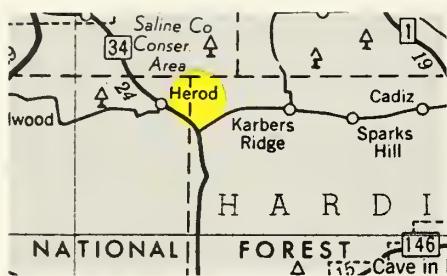
It's a long, vertical, ragged way down to the densely forested valley below — if you have acrophobia, don't look down.

Horseshoe Lake — just west of Cairo — was formed long, long ago by overflow from the Mississippi River. Until 1927, however, it contained water only during the wet season. It dried up in drought periods.

In 1927, the Illinois Department of Conservation bought 3,500

acres of land in the area, taking in all of the lake. A dam was constructed so it would hold water the year round.

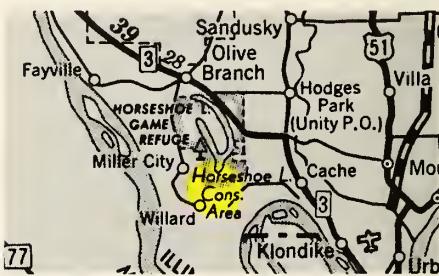
Since then, more and more Canadian geese have left their former wintering grounds on Mississippi River sandbars and islands to come to Horseshoe Lake. No wonder. According to best estimates, each goose is allowed 500-600 square feet of pasture, 14-15 pounds of corn.



Old Stone Face



Horseshoe Lake



SCHREVEPORT - JONESBORO, III.

VANDALIA - APPLETON

BIDWELL - PORTRAIT





VANDERKAM

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ILLINOIS TOWNS

